

ADVISORY BOARD ON TEACHER EDUCATION AND LICENSURE

Minutes

Meeting Date and Location: March 19, 2001
Longwood College, Salon A
Farmville, Virginia

ABTEL Members Present: Mychele Brickner Sharon Condrey
Ronald Diss Brenda Duda
Judy Davis-Dorsey Kimberly Loy
Jill Fox Mark Glaser
Gertrude Jones Mary McCauley
Donna Stevens-Smith Susan Walton

ABTEL Members Absent: Mary Bicouvaris Sally Boese
Nancy Miller Wayne Harris
Ken Fleming Jane Massey-Wilson
Holly Hawthorne

Board of Education Liaison Present: Susan T. Noble

Ex-Officio Members Present: Carole Ballard, Community College
Cora Salzberg, Council of Higher Education

Department of Education Staff: Thomas A. Elliott JoAnne Y. Carver
Byrd G. Latham Paul F. Joseph
Patty S. Pitts

Guests: Betty Lambdin, Virginia Education Association
Bart Perlman, Educational Testing Service
David Smith, Longwood College

Full Board Meeting

Ms. Brenda Duda, chair of the Advisory Board on Teacher Education and Licensure, called the meeting to order at approximately 9:15 a.m.

Ms. Duda presented ABTEL's host for this meeting, Dr. J. David Smith, Dean of Longwood College's School of Education and Human Services. Dr. Smith made a presentation on the historical evolution of teaching, emphasizing the teacher preparation program at Longwood

College. Additionally, Dr. Smith provided data on Longwood College's Hull Scholarship Program. This program has provided scholarship opportunities to 37 students since 1997. The quality of the participants was reflected in the high SAT scores and other academic achievements of the applicants.

Approval of Agenda

Ms. Donna Stevens-Smith made a motion to approve the agenda and Jill Fox seconded. The motion was approved.

Approval of Minutes

Dr. Ron Diss made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 22, 2001, meeting and Jill Fox seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item A: Vocational Education Praxis II Committee's Report

Ms. Mary McCauley presented a report on the Vocational Education Praxis II Committee meeting held January 23, 2001, at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Richmond. This committee met as a result of concern expressed that some of the questions on the Praxis II tests in the areas of business education, marketing education, work and family studies, and technology education appeared to be outdated. Ms. McCauley indicated that after careful review by over 30 vocational experts who participated in the meeting, the conclusion was that although certain questions on the test needed some revision, the tests are appropriate and should be continued until the tests are revised. Additionally, as a result of the meeting, the Educational Testing Service (ETS) expressed interest in some of the Virginia vocational experts who worked on Virginia's committee to serve on the national review of the vocational tests.

The process of reviewing the Praxis II vocational tests was precipitated by a few comments that test questions were outdated. Dr. Elliott cautioned that a few general comments about test validity may be taken out of context, and in this case required a second full review of the vocational tests. However, he did add that the review of the tests was worthwhile. Mr. Bart Perlman, Educational Testing Service, echoed Dr. Elliott's concern. He also indicated that ETS was on schedule to provide updated forms for these tests by the fall.

Following the discussion, Judy Davis-Dorsey made a motion to approve the staff recommendation that the vocational education liaison to ABTEL and personnel in the Division of Teacher Education and Licensure continue to inform ABTEL members of the progress to revise the tests in these four vocational areas. Donna Stevens-Smith seconded the motion. The recommendation was approved unanimously.

Agenda Item B: First Review of Report on the Panel for Reviewing Reading Assessments for Initial Licensure—Elementary Education, Special Education, ESL, and Middle Education Teachers

The Advisory Board on Teacher Education and Licensure recommended that Department of Education personnel convene a panel to review reading assessment instruments developed by the Educational Testing Service (ETS) and National Evaluation Systems, Inc., (NES). A panel of experts recommended by ABTEL and Department of Education personnel was convened on February 15-16 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Richmond, Virginia. Mrs. Sharon Condrey served as chair of the committee.

Mrs. Condrey presented to advisory board members the “*Report on Findings and Recommendations of the Panel for Reviewing Reading Assessments for Initial Licensure—Elementary Education, Special Education, ESL and Middle Education Teachers in Virginia.*” She indicated that the panel unanimously recommended to ABTEL that the format and content of the *Reading Instruction Competence Assessment (RICA)* developed by NES, Inc., is an appropriate test for beginning PreK-6, middle school, and special education teachers. She further reported that the panel members agreed that the *RICA* would need to be modified slightly, including modification of some of the terminology used to address all areas noted in the *Licensure Regulations for School Personnel*. The subcommittee that addressed the ESL reading endorsement competencies did not recommend the *RICA* for use as a test in this area.

Dr. JoAnne Carver advised ABTEL members that Dr. Louisa C. Moats, an independent consultant, would analyze the tests available from ETS and NES and provide Department of Education personnel with feedback as to their appropriateness for use as an assessment instrument. Dr. Moats will conduct this review in April with a final report to be submitted to the Department of Education prior to the April 23, 2001, ABTEL meeting. In response to an inquiry by Jill Fox as to why we would need this assistance, Dr. Carver indicated that this would provide the opportunity to obtain the perspective of an independent reading expert. Results of Dr. Moats review, those of the reading assessment panel, along with input from personnel in the Department would be used to assist in determining the need for a reading assessment for initial teacher licensure.

Dr. Jill Fox made a motion to accept the staff recommendation to receive the report for first review. Dr. Ron Diss seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

Agenda Item C: First Review of a Draft Analysis of Praxis I Scores in Virginia: July 1, 1996-July 1, 2000

Ms. Susan Walton provided feedback on the preliminary results of the Praxis I scores in Virginia from July 1, 1996, to July 1, 2000. The Educational Testing Service (ETS) provided the test results. A committee of advisory board members met on February 7, 2001, to review and analyze the data. Ms. Walton cautioned that the test results received did not necessarily reflect scores of prospective teachers but rather scores of all test takers. The data show that scores have been declining over the four-year period.

Ms. Michelle Brickner inquired about the purpose or use of the test data. Dr. Elliott informed her that this information could be used as the foundation for any future recommendations on Praxis. Dr. Mark Glasser asked if ninth- and tenth-graders could take the test as a means of determining the actual educational level of the Praxis I. Dr. Elliott advised him that such a recommendation was outside the purview of ABTEL. Ms. Carole Ballard asked whether ACT or SAT scores could be used in lieu of the Praxis. Dr. Elliott indicated that such a policy is not in place in Virginia, but advisory board members could review a variety of options in making any future recommendations.

At the conclusion of the discussion, Ms. Michelle Brickner made a motion that this matter be discussed again in April with a listing of possible implications. Dr. Mark Glaser seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

Agenda Item D: Continued Discussion of the Validation and Standard-Setting Studies of the Elementary Content Test and Health and Physical Education Test

During its November 20, 2000, meeting, ABTEL received for first review the validation and standard-setting studies of the elementary content test and the health and physical education test. The advisory board members received the item for continued discussion at the January 22 meeting. This item will be presented to ABTEL in April for final review.

Agenda Item E Legislative Update—2001 Virginia General Assembly

Dr. Elliott provided ABTEL with the 2001 General Assembly Preliminary Legislative Report. He indicated that the Governor had signed none of the bills. He highlighted House Bill 1589 and identical House Bill 252 which provide that retired members of the Virginia Retirement System may be hired as teachers and administrators without interrupting their retirement benefits. Dr. Elliott said that this legislation would require a lot of discussion and work prior to being presented to the Board of Education. He also mentioned that in some of his conversations on this issue, retirees were not interested in completing renewal requirements to be eligible for the program. Dr. Elliott expects to have more information by July 1 on these bills and will provide more details after that time.

Dr. Elliott also mentioned House Bill 2123 that requires the Board of Education to provide for an alternative to the Praxis I assessments. Dr. Elliott noted that this bill passed with a vote of 99-0. However, he cannot share any information about possible alternatives at this time.

Agenda Item F: Discussion on ABTEL's Annual Report to the Board of Education in May

A brief discussion was held regarding the Advisory Board's annual report of accomplishments to the Board of Education that is due in May. Possible items mentioned included the data analysis and implications regarding Praxis I, the recommendations on the health and physical education Praxis II cut scores, and the results on the study on reading assessment.

Agenda Item G: Liaison Reports

Ms. Carole Ballard indicated that the Virginia Community College System (VCCS) was meeting with four-year colleges on a variety of teacher preparation issues. Additionally, VCCS continues to emphasize Praxis preparation so students coming from the community college system will be able to complete the teacher preparation programs. She also mentioned that the Colloquium on the Role of Community Colleges in Teacher Preparation is scheduled for March 30, 2001, at the Science Museum of Virginia. Dr. Elliott will be the luncheon speaker.

Dr. Cora Salzberg of the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV) did not present a report on the activities of SCHEV.

Dr. Elliott shared information regarding ongoing activities in the Division of Teacher Education and Licensure. He referred to Patty Pitts efforts in collecting and updating the input from Institutions of Higher Education. Ms. Pitts indicated that the requirement to have the definition for criteria for low-performing schools has been delayed. Virginia will not have to report that information until this summer.

Other Issues

- Dr. Elliott recently attended a meeting of representatives from the states of Maryland, Pennsylvania, Delaware, and the District of Columbia who are working to develop a regional partnership. The states are interested in Virginia's participation. One of the key presenters, an economist from the University of Delaware, researched teacher needs from 2000-2015. Two issues the presenter believes are not being addressed are the shortage of minority teachers and teacher compensation. Dr. Elliott plans to invite the economist to present at September's ABTEL meeting.
- Dr. Elliott informed ABTEL members that due to the reduction in the budget, ABTEL meetings will be held in Richmond from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. to allow members to drive to and from the meetings. The summer workshop will not be held this year.
- Dr. Carver shared information about the success of the Virginia Teacher Quality Conference held on March 1-2, 2001, at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Richmond and of the outstanding participation of ABTEL members and others.
- The next ABTEL meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 23, 2001, in Richmond, Virginia.

Adjournment

Ms. Brenda Duda adjourned the meeting at 1:45 p.m.